GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1952
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2002
PRODUCTION OF BIO - TEA
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have agreed to develop the cultivation ofbio-tea jointly which is free from the adverse effects of chemicals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has given its approval to this proposal; and

(d) if so, the export potential of such kind of tea alongwith the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. A pilot project proposal has been submitted to the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) through Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Inter Government Group on Tea. The project is basically aimed at development of technology and systems of organic tea production by setting up model organic farms.

(c) : Yes, Sir. The FAO has in principle approved the project.

(d) : The organic commodity market, including tea, represents a growing and premium priced niche market. Organic tea production in India is gaining momentum and has already increased twenty fold from 0.15 million kgs in 1990 to 3.5 million kgs currently. The entire organic tea produced in India is exported and the price difference between organic and non-organic tea is around 50-100%. The growing production of organic tea in the country has immense export potential with higher value realization as natural food is attracting high demand in the developed countries.